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history from the author of *The Mohawk Valley*, and therefore this "companion book to *The Mohawk Valley*" is not a disappointment. The book is apparently not constructed upon any particular plan; although the title suggests an account of the history of an old frontier homestead, the author wanders far afield in many of the chapters—in one chapter as far west as Detroit. The topics treated in the volume are thrown together in a bewildering fashion, and the task of the reviewer, therefore, in following out the instructions of the REVIEW to give a brief outline of the contents of the book is difficult.

The opening chapter gives a very graphic description of the parting between young William Johnson and his Irish sweetheart. We see young William "striding along a country highway leading to the port town of Drogheda"; we see "the drooping form of a comely girl leaning on a stile constructed in a break in the hawthorne hedge which formed a border to the road he was travelling"; we hear the affectionate parting kisses. Fiction swamps history in the account but it is interesting reading. The succeeding three chapters deal with the life of Johnson and the history of the events with which he was connected. Chapter five is an odd combination of remarks on the character of Judas Iscariot and scrappy information about John Johnson. For several successive chapters we now make strenuous efforts to follow the thread of Revolutionary history in the Mohawk Valley. Chapter seven contains the journal of one William Colbraith, a soldier of Colonel Gansevoort's regiment stationed in Fort Schuyler during the siege. One entire chapter is given to a verbatim quotation of the will of Sir William. The concluding chapter of the volume contains an account of a summer ramble of the author and a couple of friends to Dadanascara.

C. H. RAMMELKAMP.

Alexander Hamilton: an Essay on American Union. By FREDERICK SCOTT OLIVER. (London: A. Constable and Company; New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1906. Pp. xiii, 502.)

IN this book we have an attempt to write an essay on American political life at a time of its most important crisis the central figure and consideration of which shall be the career of Alexander Hamilton. The result is that we get neither a sketch of Hamilton's activity in a properly digested narrative nor a systematic discussion of the American Union in the days of its infancy. The plan is somewhat disjointed; and no more unifying fact appears than a rather inflexible admiration for the subject of the book. It is natural for an Englishman who writes about the controversy between the French and British factions of American society in the days of Hamilton to have his sympathy enlisted for the British party. It is also natural for him to admire Hamilton. But he ought to have enough discrimination to see the point of view of the other side and to recognize that his own favorite had some shortcomings. Neither of these things has Mr. Oliver done. Not only are the Democrats

anathematized, but even the Federalists who did not support Hamilton's peculiar plans are put without the domain of his approval.

As to the Democratic party, it is enough to say that it is declared that "It had its origin in the intrigues of which Horatio Gates was the hero" (p. 270). This point is supported by several arguments from John C. Hamilton's *History*. Little credit is given to the matters of financial and administrative opinion on which the early Republicans differed so radically from the followers of Hamilton.

Proceeding from the Conway Cabal, the beginning of the States' Rights party, the author comes to the influence of Jefferson. He says, "Jefferson accordingly found a States Rights party ready made when, outraged by the rivalry of Hamilton and offended by the rejection of his own advice in the matter of the National Bank, he determined to undertake the organization of an opposition to the government of which he was a member." It will hardly meet the approval of American students of history, it would not have met the approval of Hamilton himself, to attribute Jefferson's actions to motives of personal spite. Mr. Oliver seems not to know that with the First Congress there came a new alignment of parties, that the Federalists of 1790 were not the same as those of 1787-1789, that antifederalism in its proper sense disappeared with the disposition of the amendments of the Constitution, and that the theory of states' rights was but a small factor in political life from 1790 to the days of the Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions. A Republican of 1792 would probably have said that the "paramount issue" was opposition to the moneyed classes; in 1794 he would have said that it was our honorable obligations to France; and in 1795 the shameless surrender to Great Britain involved in the Jay Treaty. In this connection it is interesting to note that the Jay Treaty, which was so bad in its details that even Hamilton was disgusted at it, is passed over by Mr. Oliver in three paragraphs which together contain but forty-two lines, in which the creation of the mission, its departure, its reception in England, its return to America, the adoption of the treaty, and its reception by the people are all treated. In no way do we have a statement of the contents of that instrument.

Another illustration of the author's method is to be seen in his treatment of John Adams's relations with Hamilton. Strangely enough it is Adams's quarrel with Hamilton, and not, as usually depicted, Hamilton's attack on Adams. In the matter of the appointment of Hamilton as a major-general the author shuts his eyes resolutely to his hero's unusual scheming for the first position and attacks Adams for thus making "the first of a series of great blunders . . . during his term of office under the influence of uncontrollable rage" (p. 394). Adams's second blunder is pronounced his undignified procedure in making peace with France in 1799. "It is beyond doubt", says the author, "that he caught at peace in order to prevent Hamilton from obtaining credit" (p. 395). The third mistake of Adams is thus described: "Adams, seeing everything red, and

unable to tolerate the respect entertained for Washington and Hamilton by M'Henry, Pickering, and Wolcott, dismissed these gentlemen from his cabinet on the very eve of the presidential election" (p. 396). Hamilton's relations with Miranda are not discussed, although we are assured that he had no "ambitions of a Napoleonic career". The discussion of the pamphlet which Hamilton issued in 1800 against Adams is presented in such a confused manner that it is impossible to say whether the author justifies or condemns the action of his subject in the matter (p. 402). We are undoubtedly told that it was a blunder, but we are also told that in doing it Hamilton was justified by the action of Adams toward him, and that his own action was not due to "any desire to wipe out old scores" (p. 402). And yet the author must have known when he wrote that Hamilton on May 10, 1800, said of Adams that he would never again be responsible for Adams's actions, "even though the consequences should be the election of Jefferson".

The statements pointed out are but typical of the spirit in which the book is written. It is a good echo of John C. Hamilton's large work and a worthy companion of Percy Greg's *History of the United States*.

What has been said is not to be understood as meaning that the book does not contain many acceptable statements of facts in Hamilton's life. The style is usually good, although it is not always very clear. There is no lack of striking phrases and characterizations. But in every important matter which has aroused controversy there is a singular lack of the critical spirit. The foot-notes indicate a narrow range of investigation and too close a following of the pro-Hamiltonian sources of information.

JOHN SPENCER BASSETT.

The Election of Senators. By GEORGE H. HAYNES, Ph.D. [American Public Problems, edited by RALPH CURTIS RINGWALT.] (New York: Henry Holt and Company. 1906. Pp. xi, 295.)

THIS volume, the second in a series entitled "American Public Problems", is a veritable mine of information in regard to the origin and practical workings of the provisions of the Constitution relating to the election of Federal senators. It contains also a complete résumé of the movement of recent years for the popular control over the choice of senators, together with a comprehensive and impartial presentation of the arguments on both sides of this practical question. The timeliness of this discussion is apparent in view of the fact that within the past fifteen years thirty-one states—more than the two-thirds required by the Constitution—have made formal application to Congress for the submission of an amendment to secure the election of senators by the direct vote of the people. Moreover an Interstate Convention has been called by the Iowa Legislature to meet at Des Moines, December 5, 1906, for the sole purpose of furthering this same object. At least twenty-eight states have signified their intention to participate in its deliberations. Its conclusions will be a matter of public record before the publication of this review.